

A Full and Particular Relation of the Taking the Town and Forts of KINSALE, and how they were Besieged both by Sea and Land.

11th Oct. 1690

Licensed October 10. 1690. J F.

Cork being happily surrendered, and brought under his Majesty's Obedience, by the successful Hand of Providence, and the great diligence and conduct of the Earl of *Malborough*, whose next Care was to reduce *Kinsale*: And accordingly on *Monday* the 29th of *September* 1690: he detached *Brigadier Villers* and *Brigadier Newhaussel*, with 500 Horse and Dragoons, to *Kinsale*, to summon the Place. They arrived about 2 in the Afternoon within half a Mile of the Town, and sent a Trumpeter to them, offering them to be Prisoners of War, if they would immediately surrender; otherwise to assure the Governour, he should certainly be hanged, for resisting a Victorious Army, in case he staid till Cannon were brought before the Walls. The Governour answered very haughtily, and threatened to hang up the Trumpeter, for daring to offer him such mean Conditions. But as soon as our Horse appeared, he presently gave Order to his Men to set Fire to the Faggots he had prepared in all parts of the Town, in order to burn it on the first Appearance of the enemy: Which as soon as done, they all run out of the Town to the *Old Fort*. But our Men, espying that, presently got in, and quenched it before it had burnt one House, and only met 7 or 8 of the enemy, who stayed behind to plunder, whom they presently cut in pieces. As for the two Forts, which are at the Harbour's Mouth, the *Old Fort*, being the nearest to the Town, was sent to surrender; but *O Sullivan More*, who was in it, refused, and said he would hold it out to the last Man, firing his Cannon, and hung out a bloody Flag. The like did *Sir Edward Seor*, who commanded in the other Fort, over against the *Old Fort*. Upon which the Brigadiers immediately sent away to the Earl of *Malborough* to acquaint him with the state of things, and to desire him to send 2 or 3 pieces of Cannon and three Regiments, to the *New Fort*: And for the *Old one*, if they had 300 Men, they had Cannon enough in the Town. My Lord *Malborough* did upon *Tuesday* the 30th send what was desired, but, the March being long, they came but within 4 Miles of the Town that Day. The 1st instant, those that went to the *New Fort* struck off at *Brown's Mill*, and those that came to the Town arrived there about 4 in the Afternoon. The 3^d early in the Morning, the Brigadiers having got Horses, &c. in a readiness, and having fixed 3 pieces of Cannon, which were ready mounted in the Town, they drew them up to the top of *Compass Hill*, which commanded the *Old Fort*, and began to play upon it: After 4 hours firing the enemy were forced to cease, for this Hill commanded them so, that not a Man could stir but either the Cannon or some of our Musquets hit them. In the Night our Men marched gently down the Hill; which the enemy espying, fearing some Assault designed, beat a parlee, and surrendered on the Terms offered them. There were 90 Men in it, who were conveyed to the Town, and a Guard set over them; and 200 of our Men presently marched into it. This was of great Advantage to us, for besides that it commanded part of the *New Fort*; it also hindered 3 rich Ships, who were about to steal out.

On the 4th, about 8 in the Morning, 12 of our Frigates appeared in the Bay of the *Old Head*, and after drawing themselves into a Line, they all saluted the *New Fort* with full Broad-sides; and at the same time by a Signal concerted between them, the Land Forces fell down the Hill, whilst our Cannon played to cover them: Also 300 Seamen were put on Shoar at *Oyster Haven*, and brought with them some Scaling Ladders and Grapling Irons. About 4 in the Afternoon all things being ready, the Scaling Ladders were raised up against the Walls, and our Men run up with that Vigour, and repeated Huzzas, that the Enemy had no time to think of their Defence, but were put into such a Confusion, that they retired into the Fortress in great Disorder, except 40, who were not nimble enough, and were put to the Sword. Never was so warm an Attack known, for the Land Forces on one Side, the Seamen on the other, and the Ships to the Water, thundred forth such Peals of Cannon, that there was no possible resisting. Our Men being thus possessed of the Platform, the Enemy hung out a White Flag, and were accepted of as Prisoners of War.

Thus we became Masters of one of the most considerable Fortresses in *Ireland*, and of the best Port and Harbour in the whole World. In the Fort there was found great store of Ammunition and Arms. The Irish were 300 at first, but 80 were killed in the taking of it. We had on our side about 30 killed and wounded. At Night the Men of War came into the Harbour with the Tide of Flood, and after casting Anchor, they fired a round for this joyful Success, and all other demonstrations of Joy imaginable. There were 5 Prizes in the Harbour, whereof one a French Privateer of 11 Guns. Now his Majesty has entirely subdued all this Western Part of *Ireland*, and by the Situation of this Port, his Majesty's Men of War will be able to intercept any Supply which the French can send to those Rebels that stand out in *Connaght*; so that by *Christmas* they must of necessity perish, if they continue obstinate in their Rebellion, except his Majesty will extend his great Mercy towards them, and vouchsafe to receive them into Protection, upon their Submission to him.